



# OFFICE OF THE CITY PROSECUTOR

CITY OF LONG BEACH

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CITY PROSECUTOR

## CITY PROSECUTOR ALERT AUGUST 2006

### HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION

Dear Friend,

Vacations and weekend get-aways should be pleasant experiences for you and your family. But if you don't take the necessary precautions, your time away from home can turn into a vacation for a burglar and a nightmare for you.

Home burglaries occur every 13 seconds in the United States. So, if you plan on leaving your home for an extended period of time, make sure your house doesn't appear to be vacant while you are away. Below are some simple tips to help you:

- Many burglars enter a house through a window. Remember to close and lock all house and garage windows and doors. Use slide locks for sliding glass doors.
- Leave blinds and curtains in their normal position so that your house doesn't have a "closed-down" look. Move expensive electronic equipment such as televisions, stereos and other attractive items away from windows
- Ask a close neighbor or trusted friend to pick-up your daily delivery of mail. If that is not an option, have the U.S. postal service hold your mail and temporarily cancel your newspaper subscription.
- Ask a trusted friend to inspect your house regularly and let them know who they can contact in case of an emergency.
- Set an automatic timer so that interior lights turn on and off periodically.
- If traveling for an extended period of time, arrange for lawn service. It's important to keep shrubbery trimmed around doors and windows. You don't want to give a thief a convenient place to hide.
- Never leave spare keys "hidden" under doormats, in flowerpots, or anywhere outside the house. Burglars know where to look.
- Let your local police sub-station know that you will be away and arrange for a police unit to survey your home periodically.

Following these simple steps can discourage burglars from targeting your house and give you the peace of mind you need when you're away from home. For more information on this letter, please call my Director of Community Relations Noel Hacegaba at (562) 570-5828.

Regards,

TOM REEVES

**Watch City Prosecutor Tom Reeves on the award-winning program  
Letter of the Law Thursdays on Cable Channel 8 at 5:30 PM.**